

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126563

72

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT:ESCHAEFER/AF/E:ESHIPPY:SM X20

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

S/CCT:JGATCH

AF/C:WCUTLER

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O 302213Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126563

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: DEBRIEFING OF BARBARA SMUTS

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1694

1. REFTEL STATED INTENTION PROVIDE MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL LOCALE WHERE HOSTAGES HELD AND DESCRIPTIONS OF CAPTORS. WHILE SUCH INFORMATION COULD PROVE IMPORTANT IN OUR ATTEMPTS FIND BEST WAY SECURE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES, WE REALIZE MS. SMUTS MAY STILL BE UNDER GREAT EMOTIONAL STRAIN, AND MAY BE SUSPICIOUS OF REASONS WE ATTEMPTING TO ELICIT SUCH INFORMATION. DEPT WOULD NOT WANT POST TO TAKE SUCH ACTION IF IT MIGHT UNDERMINE HER PRESENT FEELING OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN EMBASSY OFFICIALS. WE THEREFORE LEAVE TO COMPLETE DISCRETION AMBASSADOR WHETHER OR NOT TO SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM HER.

2. IF DECISION IS MADE TO PROCEED, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ALL DETAILS SHE COULD PROVIDE. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD
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LIKE INFORMATION ON A) ORGANIZATION (EVIDENCE OF LEADERSHIP,

HIERARCHY, ETC.), AND DISCIPLINE OF KIDNAPPER GROUP; B) LAYOUT OF CAMP; C) LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES OF BOTH KIDNAPPERS AND HOSTAGES; D) HOW LETTERS SHE CARRIED WERE PREPARED (E.G., DID HOSTAGES HAVE FLEXIBILITY IN DECIDING HOW TO WORD MESSAGES); E) ANY SPECIFIC DETAILS ON TREATMENT OF HOSTAGES; F) HOW SHE WAS CHOSEN TO BE BEARER OF MESSAGES; G) SUCH EVALUATION AS MAY BE POSSIBLE OF EMOTIONAL STATE OF KIDNAPPERS DURING BOTH BOAT RIDES ACROSS LAKE; H) WHERE IN CAMP WERE HOSTAGES KEPT (DAY, NIGHT); I) HOW MUCH FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WERE THEY PERMITTED; J) HOW WERE THEY GUARDED; K) HOW WELL WAS CAMP SUPPLIED (IN FOOD, ARMS, CLOTHING).

3. FOREGOING LIST NOT EXCLUSIVE, AND EMBASSY OF COURSE FREE PURSUE OTHER LINES OF INQUIRY WHICH IT FEELS COULD BE HELPFUL.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED SEND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED TO REGULAR ADDRESSEES THIS SUBJECT. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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